



## **National Commission on the Future of the Army**

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000  
Arlington, VA 22202

**SUBJECT:** National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Staff Engagement – 08 OCT 15, House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus Membership Minutes

**Date:** 08 October 2015

**Time:** 1130 – 1245 hours

**Location:** 402 Cannon Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515

**Format:** Listening session with membership of the House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus

**Attendees:**

MG(R) Ray Carpenter – NCFA Staff, Executive Director  
Mr. Rickey Smith – NCFA Staff, Staff Director  
Mr. Joseph Eule – NCFA Staff, Director of Communications  
Mr. Don Tison – Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)  
Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA)  
Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)  
Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI)  
Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)  
Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-PA)  
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

**Documents Submitted to Commission:**

Nineteen statements from the following Representatives and Senators:

1. Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)
2. Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA)
3. Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS)
4. Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI)
5. Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)
6. Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-PA)
7. Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)
8. Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-LA)
9. Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)
10. Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA)
11. Rep. John Carter (R-TX)
12. Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA)

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13. Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)
14. Rep. Steve Palazzo (R-MS)
15. Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA)
16. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA)
17. Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA)
18. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
19. Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
20. Sen. David Vitter (R-LA)

**Meeting Summary**

Members of the NCFA Staff held a listening session with the membership of the House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus (NGRCC) at the invitation of the caucus.

The engagement began at 1130 hours with an introduction by the co-chair of the NGRCC, Rep. Tim Walz. The DFO then discussed his role with respect to the Commission and the provisions of Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and the Government in Sunshine Act, both of which apply to the Commission. The DFO explained how any verbal and written comments provided would become part of the public record.

Gen. Carpenter provided brief opening remarks; he thanked the NGRCC for the invitation and gave a very brief discussion of where the Commission is within its report generation process. With that completed, Members of Congress began addressing the Commission staff one-by-one, beginning with Rep. Costello.

Costello voiced concerns about the PA National Guard and the Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI). He expressed strong concern that ARI would damage the capability of the PA Guard. He expressed his appreciation for the NCFA visit to Ft. Indiantown Gap and said the National Guard has cost advantages.

Rep. Kelly was next. He said we need combat capability in the Reserve Component (RC). He noted the RC is capable of doing the same mission as the Regular Army. He explained that when the Guard goes to war, Tupelo goes to war. He noted the reason so many Americans still support the US mission overseas is because the RC goes to war and people back home have a bond with them. He said we cannot afford to pit Army components against each other and he warned against the second and third order effects of taking all Apaches out of the Guard.

Rep. Takai said that sequestration was creating doubts across the entire military and we need to end the Budget Control Act approach to funding. He hopes ending sequestration will be part of NCFA's recommendations. He spoke about the importance of the training and partnership building from the Pacific Pathways initiatives. He said we need to preserve the combat capabilities of the National Guard and said ARI threatened the identity of the Guard. He finished by saying the Guard are the spokespeople to the world.

Rep. Roby represents Ft. Rucker and said she was there to voice strong support for ARI. She said ARI is the result of sequestration, which she opposes, and the Army has no other choice.

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She said the transfer of Apaches will have direct operational impacts, and listed several Active Component Army Divisions that would be hurt by not receiving the aircraft. She said ARI will ensure Army aviation is best postured within resource constraints.

Rep. Rothfus said they are concerned in PA about coming changes. He said he opposes ARI and added it will ensure the Guard cannot provide operational depth. He said ARI makes not fiscal or national security sense.

Rep. Bishop talked about his membership on House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies and said sequestration was causing havoc with the budget. He said as the Army draws down, the downsizing must be equitable. He said we must make sure the RC performs seamlessly when called upon. We also must take into account how we treat families (he is co-chair of the Military Families Caucus). He finished by saying he would do whatever he can to support the Army.

Don Tison, DFO, then discussed how the Commission operates with the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the sponsor and the Department of the Army as the supporting agency. Then Rickey Smith discussed NCFA travel and meetings, and the final report outline.

Rep. Walz talked about the importance of the cultural and psychological impacts of the National Guard and warned that all progress could be lost if we are not careful. He finished with a brief discussion about sequestration and the importance of hearing directly from Members of Congress on these issues.

Gen. Carpenter thanked the caucus for the invite and the meeting ended around 1245 hours.